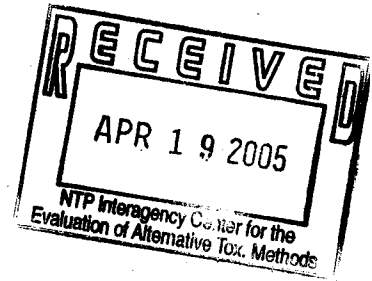


April 15, 2005

Dr. William Stokes
NICEATM, NIEHS
Research Triangle Pk., N.C. 27709



Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am writing to urge you to support changes to the methodology that prescribes the Draize eye irritancy test in research.

I have long considered the Draize test inhumane in the extreme. As I understand it, there is a proposal on the table to substitute the eyes of deceased animals for living ones, at least in the more corrosive tests. This is progress toward an acceptable procedure, though it still leaves a lot to be desired.

Please consider the opinion of the ICCVAM and the NICEATM's expert panel that some alternatives to the Draize test as it now stands would be just as effective for research purposes.

It is a source of continual puzzlement and frustration to me that, while the world is more fraught with violence than ever, and while in our country more people than ever identify themselves as very religious, kindness and compassions are still in such very short supply among us. Overt cruelty to non-human animals is, to my mind, an indication of how far we have to go to call ourselves a truly civilized species.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn C. Compton